

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1. A holder for a portable audio player adapted to a compressed audio format, the holder comprising a body, a power transmitting plug extending from the body and adapted for insertion into a vehicle cigar lighter socket, and a restraint adapted to hold a portable audio player, said holder further including an FM transmitter, a first connection to couple the audio output of said audio player to said transmitter, and a second connection to couple said transmitter to said plug.
2. A holder according to claim 1, wherein said holder includes a third connection to couple the power supply of said audio player to said plug.
3. A holder according to claim 2, wherein said third connection also couples a charging unit for said audio player to said plug.
4. A holder according to claim 1, wherein said compressed audio format is in MP3 or WMA format.
5. A holder according to claim 1, further including a transformer to provide a pre-determined voltage for said audio player.
6. A holder according to claim 5, wherein said transformer is adapted to supply said transmitter.
7. A holder according to claim 1, in the form of a cradle adapted to the shape of an audio player, the cradle having a front side exposing in use the audio player controls, and a rear side from which said plug extends.
8. A holder according to claim 7, wherein said cradle comprises a 'U' shaped recess open at one side and adapted to retain the audio player except in the direction of entry/exit.

9. A holder according to claim 8, wherein said direction is defined by a mouth, which in use is arranged uppermost.

10. A holder according to claim 9, wherein said 'U' shaped recess comprises an
5 open fronted slot.

11. A holder according to claim 1, and further including a releasable latch to retain an audio player therein.

10 12. A holder according to claim 1, wherein said transmitter has an effective range of less than 1,000 mm.

13. A method of playing, in a vehicle, audio contained in a digital flash memory, the method comprising:

15 providing a holder for apparatus containing said flash memory;
providing said holder with an integral plug adapted for insertion into a vehicle cigarette lighter socket;
providing an FM transmitter in said holder and powered via said plug;
generating audio from said flash memory when on said holder;
20 broadcasting said audio from said transmitter;
receiving said audio on an FM radio; and
playing said audio on loudspeakers connected to said FM radio.

14. A method according to claim 13, further including the step of generating audio
25 from said flash memory via an audio player adapted to MP3 or WMA formats.

15. A method according to claim 13, and including the step of powering said audio player via said plug.

30 16. A method according to claim 13, and including the step of charging a rechargeable battery of said audio player via said plug.

17. A method of playing compressed digital audio in a vehicle comprising the steps of:

coupling said audio to a transmitter;

transmitting said audio on the FM waveband;

5 receiving said audio on an in-car FM receiver; and

playing said audio on in-car speakers.

18. A method according to claim 17, and further including the step of converting
said compressed digital audio to an analogue audio output, and coupling said output to
10 said transmitter.